



## ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to novel benzimidazole derivatives, pharmaceutical compositions containing these compounds, and methods of treatment therewith. The compounds of the invention are useful in the treatment of central nervous system diseases and disorders, which are responsive to modulation of the GABA<sup>A</sup> receptor complex, and in particular for inducing and maintaining anesthesia, sedation and muscle relaxation, as well as for combating febrile convulsions in children. The compounds of the invention may also be used by veterinarians.